

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method for managing databases, the method comprising the steps of:
2 registering a plurality of databases at a community server;
3 wherein each database of said plurality of databases is controlled by a different
4 party of a plurality of parties;
5 wherein the community server is accessible over a first network to which one or
6 more users from each party of said pluralities have access;
7 wherein each database of said plurality of databases is installed on a different
8 network than said first network;
9 receiving from a user, at the community server, over said first network, a request to
10 perform a management operation relating to a particular database of said
11 plurality of databases that is controlled by a particular party of said
12 plurality of parties;
13 determining that the particular database is registered with said community server;
14 determining whether the user is authorized to perform said management operation
15 relating to said particular database; and
16 if said user is authorized to perform said management operation relating to said
17 first database, then the community server causing said management
18 operation to be performed.
- 1 2. The method of Claim 1 wherein the first network is a public network.
- 1 3. The method of Claim 2 wherein the public network is the Internet.

- 1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein:
2 the particular database is on a database appliance comprising a database process
3 and a special purpose operating system whose features and configuration
4 are dictated by the database process and supporting program components;
5 and
6 the step of performing the management operation includes adjusting an operational
7 parameter of said database appliance.
- 1 5. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of sending to the particular
2 database from the community server an update for a database process that manages access
3 to the particular database.
- 1 6. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of providing directory services
2 by the community server for the particular database.
- 1 7. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of providing backup services
2 by the community server for the particular database.
- 1 8. The method of claim 1, wherein:
2 the method further comprises the step of the community server receiving from said
3 particular database status information about said particular database; and
4 the step of causing said management operation to be performed is performed by
5 the community server providing at least a portion of said status information
6 to said user.

1 9. The method of claim 1, wherein the particular party is a database service provider
2 for a plurality of users on a public network, the database service provider having a
3 database managing platform and a set of one or more databases.

1 10. The method of claim 1, wherein
2 the method further comprises the step of receiving, at the community server, data
3 indicating authorized users and privileged requests related to the particular
4 database; and
5 the step of determining whether the user is authorized to perform said management
6 operation relating to said particular database includes determining that the
7 user is not authorized if any of the following is true:
8 the user is not one of the authorized users, and
9 the request is not one of the privileged requests associated with the user.

1 11. The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving from the plurality of parties,
2 at the community server, periodic requests for data indicating available new program
3 versions of software associated with said plurality of databases.

1 12. The method of claim 11, further comprising, if at least one available new program
2 version is indicated, then downloading the available new program version for use by the
3 plurality of parties.

1 13. The method of claim 8, wherein the step of receiving status information includes
2 receiving data indicative of at least one of current database status and current database
3 usage.

1 14. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of causing the management operation to
2 be performed includes at least one of adding an authorized user and deleting an authorized
3 user for said particular database.

1 15. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of causing the management operation to
2 be performed includes changing a privileged request associated with an authorized user.

1 16. The method of claim 1, the step of causing the management operation to be
2 performed includes changing a license term for using software licensed through the
3 community server.

1 17. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of causing the management operation to be
2 performed includes changing database resources a user may access.

1 18. The method of claim 17, wherein the particular database resources includes data
2 storage space on the particular database.

1 19. A method for managing a database, the method comprising the steps of:
2 registering a first database at a community server;
3 wherein the database is controlled by a first party and the community server is
4 controlled by a second party different from said first party;
5 wherein the first database is on a first network controlled by the first party;
6 wherein the community server is accessible over a second network that is not
7 controlled by said first party;

1 24. The method of claim 19, further comprising the step of providing directory
2 services by the community server for the first database.

1 25. The method of claim 19, further comprising the step of providing backup services
2 by the community server for the first database.

1 26. The method of claim 19, wherein:
2 the method further comprises the step of the community server receiving from said
3 first database status information about said first database; and
4 the step of causing said management operation to be performed is performed by
5 the community server providing at least a portion of said status information
6 to said user.

1 27. The method of claim 19, wherein the first party is a database service provider for a
2 plurality of users on a public network, the database service provider having a database
3 managing platform and a set of one or more databases.

1 28. The method of claim 19, wherein
2 the method further comprises the step of receiving, at the community server, data
3 indicating authorized users and privileged requests related to the first
4 database; and
5 the step of determining whether the user is authorized to perform said management
6 operation relating to said first database includes determining that the user in
7 not authorized if any of the following is true:
8 the user is not one of the authorized users, and

9 the request is not one of the privileged requests associated with the user.

1 29. The method of claim 19, further comprising receiving from the first party, at the
2 community server, periodic requests for data indicating available new program versions of
3 software associated with said first database.

1 30. The method of claim 29, further comprising, if at least one available new program
2 version is indicated, then downloading the available new program version for use by the
3 first party.

1 31. The method of claim 26, wherein the step of receiving status information includes
2 receiving data indicative of at least one of current database status and current database
3 usage.

1 32. The method of claim 19, wherein the step of causing the management operation to
2 be performed includes at least one of adding an authorized user and deleting an authorized
3 user for said first database.

1 33. The method of claim 19, wherein the step of causing the management operation to
2 be performed includes changing a privileged request associated with an authorized user.

1 34. The method of claim 19, the step of causing the management operation to be
2 performed includes changing a license term for using software licensed through the
3 community server.

1 35. The method of claim 19 wherein the step of causing the management operation to
2 be performed includes changing database resources a user may access.

1 36. The method of claim 35, wherein the first database resources includes data storage
2 space on the first database.

1 37. A computer-readable medium carrying instructions for managing databases, the
2 computer-readable medium comprising instructions for causing one or more processors to
3 perform the steps of:
4 registering a plurality of databases at a community server;
5 wherein each database of said plurality of databases is controlled by a different
6 party of a plurality of parties;
7 wherein the community server is accessible over a first network to which one or
8 more users from each party of said pluralities have access;
9 wherein each database of said plurality of databases is installed on a different
10 network of a plurality of networks than the other databases of said plurality
11 of databases;
12 receiving from a user, at the community server, over said first network, a request to
13 perform a management operation relating to a particular database of said
14 plurality of databases that is controlled by a particular party of said
15 plurality of parties;
16 determining that the particular database is registered with said community server;
17 determining whether the user is authorized to perform said management operation
18 relating to said particular database; and

19 if said user is authorized to perform said management operation relating to said
20 first database, then the community server causing said management
21 operation to be performed.

1 38. The computer-readable medium of Claim 37 wherein the first network is a public
2 network.

1 39. The computer-readable medium of Claim 38 wherein the public network is the
2 Internet.

1 40. The computer-readable medium of claim 37, wherein:
2 the particular database is on a database appliance comprising a database process
3 and a special purpose operating system whose features and configuration
4 are dictated by the database process and supporting program components;
5 and
6 the step of performing the management operation includes adjusting an operational
7 parameter of said database appliance.

1 41. The computer-readable medium of claim 37, further including instructions for
2 performing the step of sending to the particular database from the community server an
3 update for a database process that manages access to the particular database.

1 42. The computer-readable medium of claim 37, further including instructions for
2 performing the step of providing directory services by the community server for the
3 particular database.

1 43. The computer-readable medium of claim 37, further including instructions for
 2 performing the step of providing backup services by the community server for the
 3 particular database.

1 44. The computer-readable medium of claim 37, wherein:
 2 the computer-readable medium further comprises instructions for performing the
 3 step of the community server receiving from said particular database status
 4 information about said particular database; and
 5 the step of causing said management operation to be performed is performed by
 6 the community server providing at least a portion of said status information
 7 to said user.

1 45. The computer-readable medium of claim 37, wherein the particular party is a
 2 database service provider for a plurality of users on a public network, the database service
 3 provider having a database managing platform and a set of one or more databases.

1 46. The computer-readable medium of claim 37, wherein
 2 the computer-readable medium further comprises instructions for performing the
 3 step of receiving, at the community server, data indicating authorized users
 4 and privileged requests related to the particular database; and
 5 the step of determining whether the user is authorized to perform said management
 6 operation relating to said particular database includes determining that the
 7 user is not authorized if any of the following is true:
 8 the user is not one of the authorized users, and

9 the request is not one of the privileged requests associated with the user.

1 47. The computer-readable medium of claim 37, further comprising instructions for
 2 performing the step of receiving from the plurality of parties, at the community server,
 3 periodic requests for data indicating available new program versions of software
 4 associated with said plurality of databases.

1 48. The computer-readable medium of claim 47, further comprising instructions for
 2 performing the step of, if at least one available new program version is indicated, then
 3 downloading the available new program version for use by the plurality of parties.

1 49. The computer-readable medium of claim 44, wherein the step of receiving status
 2 information includes receiving data indicative of at least one of current database status and
 3 current database usage.

1 50. The computer-readable medium of claim 37, wherein the step of causing the
 2 management operation to be performed includes at least one of adding an authorized user
 3 and deleting an authorized user for said particular database.

1 51. The computer-readable medium of claim 37, wherein the step of causing the
 2 management operation to be performed includes changing a privileged request associated
 3 with an authorized user.

1 52. The computer-readable medium of claim 37, wherein the step of causing the
 2 management operation to be performed includes changing a license term for using
 3 software licensed through the community server.

53. The computer-readable medium of claim 37 wherein the step of causing the management operation to be performed includes changing database resources a user may access.

54. The computer-readable medium of claim 53, wherein the particular database resources includes data storage space on the particular database.

55. A computer-readable medium carrying instructions for managing a database, the instructions including instructions for performing the steps of:

- registering a first database at a community server;
- wherein the database is controlled by a first party and the community server is controlled by a second party different from said first party;
- wherein the first database is on a first network controlled by the first party;
- wherein the community server is accessible over a second network that is not controlled by said first party;
- wherein one or more users from said first party have access to said second network;
- receiving from a user, at the community server, over said second network, a request to perform a management operation relating to the first database;
- determining that the first database is registered with said community server;
- determining whether the user is authorized to perform said management operation relating to said first database; and

16 if said user is authorized to perform said management operation relating to said
 17 first database, then the community server causing said management
 18 operation to be performed.

1 56. The computer-readable medium of Claim 55 wherein the second network is a
 2 public network.

1 57. The computer-readable medium of Claim 56 wherein the public network is the
 2 Internet.

1 58. The computer-readable medium of claim 55, wherein:
 2 the first database is on a database appliance comprising a database process and a
 3 special purpose operating system whose features and configuration are
 4 dictated by the database process and supporting program components; and
 5 the step of performing the management operation includes adjusting an operational
 6 parameter of said database appliance.

1 59. The computer-readable medium of claim 55, further including instructions for
 2 performing the step of sending to the first database from the community server an update
 3 for a database process that manages access to the first database.

1 60. The computer-readable medium of claim 55, further including instructions for
 2 performing the step of providing directory services by the community server for the first
 3 database.

1 71. The computer-readable medium of claim 55 wherein the step of causing the
2 management operation to be performed includes changing database resources a user may
3 access.

1 72. The computer-readable medium of claim 71, wherein the first database resources
2 includes data storage space on the first database.